BOATING SAFETY

Joint Base Safety Office

Terminal Learning Objective

As a Unit Safety Coordinator you will receive basic instruction on boating safety and learn where to find this information for future safety presentations

Topics

- Training
- Experience
- Safety equipment
- Planning
- Emergencies
- General Reminders

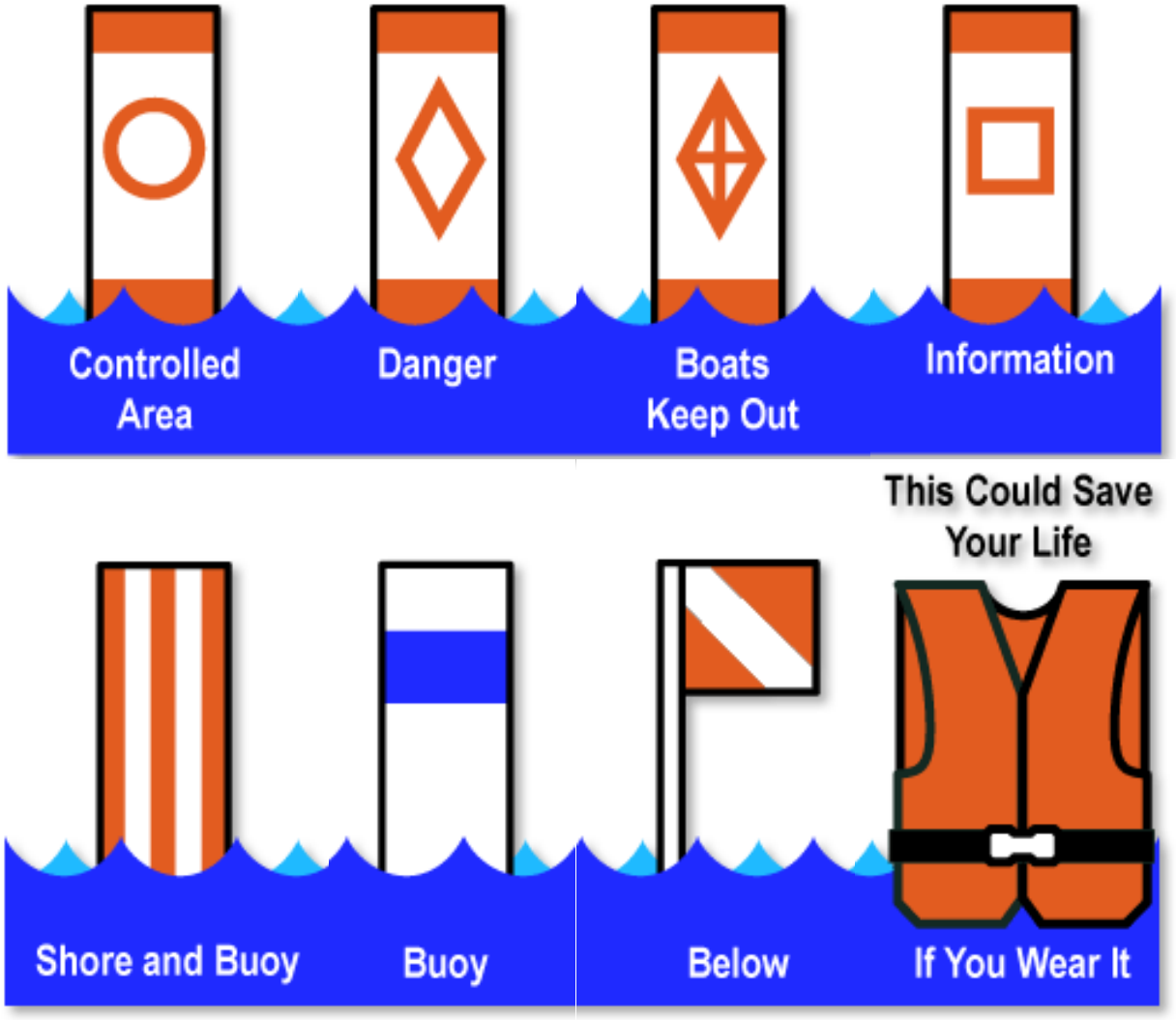
Training

- Four leading causes of drowning
- Buoy Identification
- Take a Boating Safety Course
- Take an On-Line Boating Safety Course
- Experience Tips

The Four Major Causes of Drownings

1. Not wearing a life jacket
2. Abuse of alcohol
3. Lack of sufficient swimming skills
4. Hypothermia.

Buoy Identification



Take a Boating Safety Course!

- Local U.S. Power Squadron (800) 336-BOAT
- Coast Guard Auxiliary (800) 368-5647
- Northwest Adventure Center 967-7744
- YMCAs and other Organizations
- American Red Cross Outdoor Equipment Vendors
- Other boaters

Take a On-Line Boating Safety Course!

- http://Boatsafe.com (Boatsafe.com)
- http://www.boatus.com/courseline/default.asp (Boat/US Foundation)
- http://www.boat-ed.com (BoatED- though not yet for State of WA)

Experience Tips

- Get hands on with a veteran boater
- Practice what you learn in boating safety courses
- Don’t over step your skill level
- Increase your knowledge (next level safety course)
- Be a positive role model, you never know who may be learning from you

Safety Equipment

- Required by law
- Optional
- Vehicle equipment
- Trailer PMCS

Required by Law

- Lights
- Pfd’s
- Flame arrestor
- Sound device
- Fire extinguisher (CO2, foam or chemical)
- Ventilation
- Flame arrestor
- Anchor & line
- Bailing device
- Oar (less than 16ft)
- Visual distress signals

Optional

- Lights (portable, waterproof & float)
- 2nd anchor or sea anchor
- Horn or whistle (in case of power failure)
- VHF radio (waterproof)
- Sunscreen
- Water (2-3 gallons)
- Depth finder
- Spare fuses, belts, tools & light bulbs
- GPS and NVG (for the serious boater)
- Spare prop
- First aid kit

Vehicle Equipment

- Vehicle rated to tow trailer & boat fully loaded
- Transmission cooler (automatic transmission)
- Towing mirrors
- Proper size ball & receiver
- Chocks (loading & unloading)
- Boat tiedowns & straps
- Proper trailer hitch (bumper mount least desirable)

Trailer PMCS

- Check hitch to insure its compatible with receiver
- Check wiring harness and lights for operation
- Check master cylinder for serviceability
- Check trailer rollers
- Check winch strap or chain for serviceability
- Check tires
- Check brake lines
- Check bearings and covers
- Safety chains (should criss-cross)

More Equipment Info

- Visit the USCG Boating Safety site, and navigate to the equipment page:

http://www.uscgboating.org

Planning

- Phase Plan
- Float Plan

Phase Plan

- Planning
  - Charts
  - Weather
  - Float plan
- Preflight Prefloat
  - Towing vehicle, trailer & boat
  - Yourself or the captain
- Execution
  - Don’t deviate from float plan without notification of change
- Postflight Postfloat
  - Close out with float plan holder

Flight Float Plan

- (Leave with reliable person)

Description of Boat

Type _____ Color _____ Trim _____ Registration # _____

Length _____ Name of Boat _____ Make _____ Other Info _____

Engine Type _____ H.P. _____ No of Engines _____

Fuel Capacity _____

Survival Equipment

PFD's ____ Flares ____ Mirror ____ Smoke Signals ____

Flashlight ____ Food ____ Paddles ____ Water ____

Anchor ____ Raft or Dinghy ____

Radio yes ___ no ___ Type _____ Frequencies _____

Auto and Trailer Information

Automobile License # _____ Make and Model _____

Trailer License # _____ Type _____

Flight Float Plan

p2

PERSONNEL INFO (For each individual on board)

Name _____ Age ____ Address _____

Name _____ Age ____ Address _____

TRIP INFO

Departure Time _____ Return Time _____

Departing _____ Destination _____

Call Coast Guard NLT _____

Phone Numbers

Marina # _____

Coast Guard # _____

Marine Police # _____

Emergencies

- NW Weather Watch
- What to do in Severe Weather
- Cold Water Survival Tips

NW Weather Watch

- Weather changes generally come from the southwest. Scan the sky with your weather eye, especially to the southwest.
- Watch for cloud to build up, especially rapid vertically rising clouds.
- Sudden drop in temperature.
- Sudden change in wind direction and/or speed.
- If you have a barometer on your boat, check it every 2 to 3 hours. A rising barometer indicates fair weather and rise in wind velocity; a falling barometer indicates stormy or rainy weather.

What to do in Severe Weather

- Reduce speed, but keep just enough power to maintain headway.
- Put on your PFDs.
- Turn on running lights.
- Head for nearest shore that is safe to approach, if possible.
- Head bow of boat into the waves at about a 45-degree angle.
- Keep bilges free of water.
- Seat passengers on bottom of boat near centerline.
- If your engine fails, trail a sea anchor on a line from the bow to keep the boat headed into the waves. A bucket will work as a sea anchor in an emergency.
- Anchor the boat if necessary

Cold Water Survival Tips

- To avoid hypothermia:
  - Dress warmly with wool clothing.
  - Wear rain gear and stay dry.
  - Seek a warm environment at the first sign (mild shivering) of hypothermia.
- If you fall in the water:
  - Don’t discard clothing.
  - While wearing your life jacket, draw your knees and arms together into the HELP (Heat Escape Lessening Posture) posture.

General Reminders

- Don’t ski or tube in unfamiliar waters
- Check depth in area before you do, charts are not always correct
- Know the tidal changes
- Drunk boaters will feel even worse on a boat
- If you have an emergency everyone should know what to do, so brief your passengers
- Don’t forget to close out float plan
- Respect the environment (don’t deep six beer/soda cans)
- Don’t second guess Mother Nature, stay abreast of the weather

More Information

- Best source-US Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety:

  http://www.uscgboating.org

QUESTIONS?